

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
February 14, 2017

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

INVOCATION: Reverend Roger Wills – Trinity Free Methodist Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: All members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:

President Hardaway congratulated the Merrillville High School Girls Basketball team for winning Sectionals for their fifth consecutive year. He also congratulated the Andean Girls Basketball team for winning Sectionals for their third consecutive year.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated February 14, 2017. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2017. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mr. Pettit presented the detailed information for the Crossroads Regional Chamber of Commerce Capital Campaign. Mr. Pettit made a motion to allocate \$20,000 (\$10,000 per year for 2 years) for the Crossroads Regional Chamber of Commerce Capital Campaign. A discussion related to the funding followed. Mr. Minchuk seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Minchuk had no report.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Uzelac had no report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mrs. Barron has been in contact with three different prescription companies to discuss the option of being able to offer the Town of Merrillville employees the best discount for prescription at no additional costs.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Uzelac had no report.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Ms. LaMarca referred to Jan Orlich for a report. Ms. Orlich provided the Town Council with detailed data information about the Erie Lackawanna Trail reflecting that more people use the Merrillville portion of the trail verses the surrounding areas. Discussion followed regarding details about the branding project for the trail. President Hardaway inquired as to the status for the concerts in the park, Jan provided an update.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Barron referred to Matt Lake for a report. Mr. Lake provided an update on several design projects set to take place this year.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Ms. LaMarca had no report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Pettit said there will be an Economic Development Committee meeting, February 21, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. This EDC meeting will be to hear a tax abatement petition. Mr. Spires mentioned that the Redevelopment Commission meeting will be on that same day immediately following the Economic Development Committee meeting.

UTILITY LIAISON:

Mr. Spann had no report.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

President Hardaway inquired as to the status of various lot locations up for tax sale. Mr. Bushemi said we are still waiting for the Board of Commissioners to reissue a new tax sale certificate to the Town. President Hardaway said that if there is anything that Mr. Bushemi can do to expedite this process would it be appreciated.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

None

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 17-01: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, amending Ordinance 16-38 and pay for employees of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana for the calendar year 2017. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no public comment or discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

Mrs. Barron made a motion to have Res. 17-04 moved up to be read in first position before Res. 17-02 and 17-03. Mr. Pettit seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 17-04: A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana rescinding Resolution 15-03 approved on January 13, 2015 and rescinding its January 13, 2015 approval of the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for the South Shore Railroad West Lake Corridor Project and rescinding its January 13, 2015 approval of a pledged revenues exhibit pledging twenty-two percent (22%) of the Town's annual distribution of County Economic Development income tax funds to the project and reapproving the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for the South Shore Railroad West Lake Corridor Project and approving a pledged revenues exhibit pledging eight percent (8%) of the Town's annual distribution of County Economic Development income tax funds to the project effective March 1, 2017. Mrs. Barron made a motion to table the resolution till a later date for further discussion. Mr. Pettit seconded the motion to table the resolution. Mr. Pettit stated that Congressman Peter Visclosky was in the audience, and that the Town Council would like to personally meet with him to discuss this matter. Congressman Visclosky agreed to have a meeting arranged to further discuss this topic. Mr. Pettit thanked the Congressmen for attending the meeting. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 17-02: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville Town Council authorizing a request for transfer from the Lake County Board of Commissioners of Real Property located at 5601 Broadway, Merrillville, Indiana. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. President Hardaway provided an explanation for the reasoning of this request to secure this parcel. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 17-03: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana authorizing the remainder repayment of a temporary loan (as of 1-30-17). Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. Discussion followed regarding funding. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 17-05: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2017 budget within the General Fund. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 17-06: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2017 budget within the General Fund. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 17-07: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2017 budget within the Casino Fund. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

BZA ACTIONS:

Petitioner:	Guriqbal Singh
Owner:	Frank H. Halfman
Request:	Special exception approval
Purpose:	For a proposed gas station and convenience store
Location:	7269 Broadway
Zoning:	C-3, Highway Commercial
Case #:	Z43E14-1116
Conditions:	For this petitioner only at this location only for this use only. An eight foot PVC privacy fence be installed the entire length of the east property line from the sidewalk on 73 rd Ave all the way north to his north property line. No cooked food at location. Allowed a hot dog roller and can sell packaged food only.

The petitioner was present to address any questions that may arise. Sheila Shine provided the Staff Report for the request. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve with conditions and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. Some discussion followed. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Petitioner: View Outdoor Advertising
Owner: View Outdoor Advertising
Request: Variance of use approval
Purpose: Add digital faces on both sides of existing billboard sign
Location: East Lincoln Highway
Zoning: C-3, Highway Commercial Zoning District
Case #: Z1uV1-0117
Conditions: For this petitioner only at this location only for this use only.

Representation for the petitioner was present to address any questions that may arise. Sheila Shine provided the Staff Report for the request. Mr. Pettit abstained from the vote due to a conflict of interest. Discussion followed. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve with conditions and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. The motion carried by roll call vote of 6-1 (1 abstention). There was no further discussion.

Petitioner: Crystal L. Taylor-Hutch
Owner: R.E.M.I. Companies
Request: Special exception approval
Purpose: For proposed youth service and counseling site
Location: 5437 Broadway
Zoning: C-2, Community Commercial Zoning District
Case #: Z2E1-0117
Conditions: For this petitioner only at this location only for this use only.

The petitioner was present to address any questions that may arise. Sheila Shine provided the Staff Report for the request. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. Discussion followed. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Petitioner: Xioties Properties, LLC
Owner: PM REO LLC
Request: Special exception approval
Purpose: Full service dine in restaurant
Location: 7454 Broadway
Zoning: C-2, Community Commercial Zoning District
Case #: Z3E2-0117
Conditions: For this petitioner only at this location only for this use only.

The petitioner was present to address any questions that may arise. Sheila Shine provided the Staff Report for the request. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:
None

NEW BUSINESS:
Mrs. Barron welcomed Bill Laird to the Planning & Building department. Mrs. Barron announced that Merrillville Crew Carwash will participate with the Boys and Girls Club of Northwest Indiana for a fundraiser on February 17th & 18th from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. One hundred percent of the proceeds will go to the Boys and Girls Club of Northwest Indiana.
President Hardaway commented on how nice the remodeled Burger King located on 61st looks. Mr. Pettit mentioned that the old Kmart space will be taken over by a new business At Home.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer’s Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
Environmental Resource Committee meeting, February 16, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.
Town Hall Offices Closed (except for Emergency Services)
February 20, 2017 in observance of President’s Day.
Economic Development Committee meeting, February 21, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.
Redevelopment Commission meeting, February 21, 2017 (immediately following the Economic Development Committee meeting at 5:30p.m.)
Plan Commission meeting, February 21, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.
Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, February 22, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.
Abandoned Blighted Properties Committee meeting, February 23, 2017 at 10:30 a.m.
Town Council meeting, February 28, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Pettit made a motion to adjourn was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac.